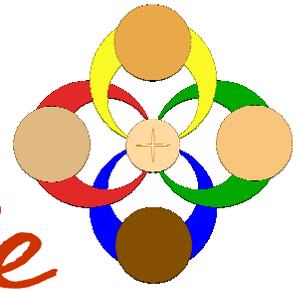


CREATOR



Chronicle



"As a congregation named for our Creator, we are children of the Living God, beloved brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, selflessly living out our faith in worship, fellowship, giving, education and outreach."

March 2020

Dear Friends:

As we enter the Season of Lent, *let us Remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return.*

If you have ever lived or worked around a construction-remodeling project, I'm sure you are familiar with the image of dusty footprints leading from the worksite, down the hall, past the sign that says "Do Not Enter" and onto the carpet throughout the rest of the building.

Now, being a preacher my thoughts on this matter turn quickly from floor cleaning to soul cleaning and lessons we can learn from dust.

In the **first** place: "**Remember** that you are dust and to dust you shall return" is a reminder of our humanity.

In the movie Rudy, the hero is an undersized young man from a steel town who wanted to play football for Notre Dame. He faces almost impossible odds in trying to make his dream come true. During one of his worst days, he goes to see a priest at the College chapel; asking him all those "why?" questions we are prone to ask in moments of disappointment.

The priest smiled and said to him, "Son, I've been a priest for over 40 years and there are only two things I am absolutely certain of: *There is a God; and I'm not God.*"

Continued on next page

Rev. Robert M. Blanton, Priest-In-Charge * office hours: Monday—Thursday, 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Please call the church office, 601-924-2261, to schedule an appointment.

Continued from page 1

We are not God. We are human and we are therefore less than perfect. We are human and prone to failure. We are human and are incapable of making of ourselves anything else but human.

Dust reminds us of the messes we make *in* life the messes we make *of* life. Like dusty footprints in the hallway, we leave behind us traces of our own humanity, signs of our imperfection for all the world to see. No matter how hard we try not to, we leave bits of dusty failure and frailty behind us, wherever we go.

That is why the **Ash Wednesday** liturgy contains a long confession; it is an opportunity for us to own up to the inevitable messiness of our lives.

And is it important for us to remember that *confession* always ends with *absolution* with a declaration of *forgiveness* and that this *promise of forgiveness* is contained in the **Ash Wednesday** refrain:

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

“To dust you shall return” this is an echo of the story in **Genesis** where **God** took a lump of clay, a bit of dust, and breathed life into it.

Indeed, we *are* dust, but we are very *special* dust, we are dust that has been *filled* and is *refilled* with *breath*, the very *spirit* of the **Creator** the *spirit* of the **Living God**. And when we die when we no longer *breathe* our dust *returns* to its *maker* to its *living God*.

So *far* from being *rejected* because our messy dustiness; we are gathered back to the one who gave *us* back to the *one* who gives our *dust* its very *life*.

In the meantime, in the interval between breathing our *first* breath and our *death*; between *dust* and *dust* we live in this world as *imperfect* human beings as *fractured* angels what **Martin Luther** called being *Saints* and *Sinners* at the same time.

All too often, we try to see our **God** and ourselves at one end of the Holiness spectrum or the other.

Either we see **God** as a stern and unbending judge and ourselves as miserable sinners, **or** ...

We see **God** as a sort of *indulgent* grandparent, excusing our every cute mistake on the strength of *divine love*, and we see ourselves as sweet, harmless little saints.

Continued on next page

Continued from page 2

And the *truth* lies somewhere in the murky *middle*; somewhere in the vast empty space *between* those two extremes.

Yes, **God** is holy and righteous. Yes, **God** does hate sin and demands justice; and yes, we do fail to measure up.

And yes, **God** does *love* us—*all* of us—with a complete and *unconditional* love; a love that casts our sin deep into the sea as far from us as the east is from the west.

Now, the thing is, we can't place **God** somewhere in the middle between these two extremes, there is **no** middle position; **no** “sort-of” nice, “sort-of” stern **God**.

The truth is that **God** is at *both* ends of this *spectrum* at one and the same time . . . just as *we* are both *saint* and *sinner* at one and the same time.

God is the inexpressible *mystery* that lives in the *empty space* between **God** as *judge* and **God** as *savior*.

In the temple, in the holy of holies, atop the altar, cherubim and seraphim, where there is nothing. **God** is in that *empty space*.

Remember that you are *dust*; that you and you and you and me, *all* of us are as specks of *dust* beneath the feet of a mighty **God**.

And remember to *dust* you shall *return*. *Remember* that our *loving God* calls us back to the place where **God** formed *us*, where **God** *breathed* life into *us*.

In that mysterious space is where **God** waits to receive us; and the way to be *ready* to be received is in the words of **Psalm 51** with “A contrite heart and a broken spirit.”

Our **Lenten** journey is a journey to the *foot* of the *cross*; to the place where the ultimate *mystery* of **God's love** is revealed.

The cross is the place where **God's judgment** of *sin* and **God's forgiveness** of *sin* merge in the form of the crucified **Christ**.

Continued on page 5



Prayer and Healing Service

Healing Service and Prime Timers

Wednesday, March 4

12:00 - Healing Service

12:30 - Prime Timers' Pot Luck Lunch



Time to Spring Ahead

Don't be late!

Make sure you mark your calendars to "set your clocks ahead one hour" before going to sleep Saturday, March 7.



Come and Join Us!

Monthly Church Work Day

Saturday, March 21 (8-12 am)

There is a lot going on and we could really use some extra hands!

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

(3rd Sunday each month)



When you are grocery shopping, please remember to pick up some extra, non-perishable food goods and bring them to church the next time you come. We will be continuing this outreach ministry each month on the third Sunday each month, so mark the dates on your calendar.

Continued from page 3

Martin Luther used to say that we tend to look for **God** in all the *wrong* places in feats of *power* or stern-ness of *purpose*.

He said there is only *one* place that we can look and be *certain* that we are seeing **God** . . . There is only *one* place where God's awesome *justice* and **God's** steadfast *love* are both clearly revealed, and *that* place is **Christ** upon the **Cross**.

So, this (day) night, and every (day) night, remember that you are **God's** dust. And never forget the promise that to **God's** dust you shall return.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob

The graphic features a brown cross, green palm fronds, and two nails. The word "Lent" is written in a large, elegant cursive font. To the right, the text "Joint Lenten Study Series" is in a bold, purple serif font, followed by "Creator / Safe Harbor" in a smaller purple serif font. Below that, "Each Wednesday night beginning March 4" and "Supper at 6:00 pm followed by a Study/Discussion @ 6:30" are in a purple serif font.

Joint Lenten Study Series
Creator / Safe Harbor
Each Wednesday night beginning March 4
Supper at 6:00 pm followed by a Study/Discussion @ 6:30

March 4: Creator provides supper and Rev. Ann Michele leads study/discussion.

March 11: Safe Harbor provides supper and Rev. Shelli leads study/discussion.

March 18: Creator provides supper and Rev. Bob leads study/discussion.

March 25: Safe Harbor provides supper and Rev Ann Michele leads study/discussion.

April 1: Creator/Safe Harbor provide supper and Rev. Shelli leads study/discussion.

The book the leaders are using (in part) is [A World Worth Saving: Lenten Spiritual Practices for Action](#) by George Donigian.

Pack 345— Pinewood Derby



The boys always have a terrific time building their cars with their parents and racing them “over and over” until I run then off! Even some siblings build cars and join in the fun. John Fox was the race starter again this year. Nate Santos took 1st place with Peyton Ross coming in 2nd. Now it’s off to the District races next month. The fun never ends!



you are joyfully invited to
the wedding of

Lauren Wilson
&
Jan Dettwiller

THE FOURTH OF APRIL
two thousand twenty
at half past four in the evening
THE GIN AT RASBERRY GREENE
179 bernis hill road | soso MS

reception to follow



for details, please visit
www.zola.com/wedding/404wilsonnotfound



Pack 345

Cubmaster: Mike Milone
Pack Committee: John Lanford, Chairman, Edie Hill,
 John Fox



Pack 345 Calendar - 2019 - 2020

September

16 Pack Committee Meeting, 11:30 am
 20 New Parent Orientation, 6:30 pm
 27 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm

October

12-14 Akela Cub Weekend
 19-21 Akela Cub Weekend
 27 Brighton Park, 2:00 pm, Water Rockets

November

9 Church Campout
 21 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm, Flag Retirement

December

1 Pack Committee Meeting, 11:30 am
 7 *No Pack Meeting*, Winter Pack Outing

January

30 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm
 31-Feb 2 Cub Scout Polar Weekend

February

2 Scout Sunday (@ church @ 10:00 am)
 27 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm (Pinewood Derby)
 Camp Card Sales Begin

March

TBD District Pinewood Derby
 26 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm

April

17-19 Cuboree Weekend
 23 Pack Meeting, 6:00 pm
 Camp Card Sales End (money due)

May

3 Pack Committee Meeting, 11:30 am
 14 Year-end Parent & Den Leader Meeting,
 6:00 pm
 28 Blue & Gold Banquet, 6:00 pm
 Graduation

June

6-8 Cub / Webelos Summer Camp
 15-19 District Day Camp
 TBD Pack Summer Outing





Vestry Digest

February 24, 2020

Present: Pastor Bob Blanton, Priest-in-Charge, Rhea Estes, Senior Warden, Ross Turner, Isabel Mills, Jennifer Duncan, Tommy Mills, Treasurer, Dianne Martin, Clerk of the Vestry

Absent:

Visitor:

Treasurer Report:

Tommy noted that the budget reserve is the best it has been since March of 2019. He thanked Jennifer for her help with putting the new year budget into the accounting software.

Junior Warden Report:

- Next scheduled workday is the third Saturday in March (3/21/2020). Ross attended the workday in February.
- We need to clean out gutters on the rear of the building and clear out the valleys on the roof line to help in finding out the source of the leak over the freezer in the kitchen.
- The bulletin board has been placed in the kitchen for people to write down what needs to be done or to volunteer to do a needed task.
- The labyrinth needs repainting. We will need to get striping paint from Sherwin Williams.
- Exterior lights on the buildings need to be checked. Some bulbs seem to be burned out.

Vestry Minutes *continued on next page*

Old Business

- We have a quote from Mills Hardware for outside locks on the church building and the storage room in the education building. It is \$143.95 just for the locks themselves. This does not include installation. Rhea has been authorized to purchase the locks up to \$200.00. This motion was made by Ross, seconded by Jennifer, and passed.
- Bob will look into getting the stucco on church building taken care of.

New Business

- Deborah Runyan sent a letter to Bob, Rhea and Janie containing information about ways in which our church can help families impacted by the ICE raids in Mississippi. Sacred Heart in Canton has an afterschool program for the children and helps the families in other ways as well. They need prepackaged snacks, fresh food, items for the food pantry and cash donations for help in paying phone, rent, and utility bills. Northside Baptist in Clinton is supporting this ministry. Deborah asked if Creator wants to help and whether we want to coordinate with Northside. Bob said that we would like to work together with Northside. Rhea asked that we find someone to head up this project. Bob said he believed Deborah would want to do that. The vestry would like Deborah to let us know how she would like us to proceed.
- Wednesday Lenten study will be led by Bob, Ann Michele and Shelli. We will be studying *A World Worth Saving: Lenten Spiritual Practices for Action*. Handouts will be provided. Creator will provide suppers on March 4 and March 18 and will partner with Safe Harbor to provide supper on April 1. Rhea has volunteered to provide supper on March 4 so we need volunteers for the other dates. Supper will be at 6:00 pm and the study / discussion will begin at 6:30 pm. This will allow for participation by the choir members up until the time they need to leave for practice.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Minutes of vestry meetings may be found on the bulletin board outside the administrator's office following their approval and correction if needed. If you would like a copy, please call the office and a copy will be provided to you via email.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor	2 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	3 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	4 12:00 am: Healing Service 12:30 pm: Prime Timers 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group Lenten Study Series 6:00 pm	5 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	6	7 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting 
8 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor	9 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	10 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	11 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group Lenten Study Series 6:00 pm	12 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	13	14 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
15 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor FOOD PANTRY for the 4 C's	16 6:30 pm: Vestry 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	17 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	18 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group Lenten Study Series 6:00 pm	19 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	20	21 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting Church Work Day 8am-12pm
22 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor	23 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	24 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	25 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group Lenten Study Series 6:00 pm	26 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	27	28 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting
29 8:00 am: Mass 10:30 am: Mass 6:00 pm: Safe Harbor	30 7:30 pm: DOA—Big Book Group	31 12:00 pm: AA Meeting	1 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts 7:00 pm: Adult Choir 7:00 pm: Men's AA Group Lenten Study Series 6:00 pm	2 12:00 pm: AA Meeting 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts	3	4 5 pm: AA / Al-Anon Meeting

	1	8	15	22	29
Chalice	Bob White Ruby Lanford	Mike Milone Wendy Brantley	Bob White Maddie Gray Braley	Mike Milone Ruby Lanford	Bob White Maddie Gray Braley
Lectors	Ross Turner Joan Blanton	John Lanford Pennie Van Brocklin	Mandy Meyer Jennifer Duncan	Deborah Runyan Ruby Lanford	Wendy Brantley Landon Daniel
Prayers	Deborah Runyan	Janie Fields	Wendy Brantley	Ross Turner	Pennie Van Brocklin
Acolytes	Landon Daniel Kate Onyia	Ruby Lanford Manny Diaz-Olarra	Rowan Braley Kate Onyia	Max Lanford Manny Diaz-Olarra	Maddie Gray Braley Rowan Braley
Ushers	Jennifer Duncan Will Duncan	Austine Onyia Emmanuela Onyia	Tim Walsh Dorie Walsh	Vicky Donaho Doug George	Beth Braley Stone Braley
Altar	Tommye Kirksey Sandra Randall	Katy Lanford	Larry Estes	Ross Turner	Rhea Estes
Home Communion			Eddie Hill		
Vestry Person of the Day	Ross Turner	John Lanford	Rhea Estes	Jennifer Wilson	Rhea Estes



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

- 1 David Miller
- 6 Maddie Gray Braley
Abby Donaho
- 9 Josh Thibodeaux
- 25 Larry Estes
Linda Waldbauer
- 26 Liam Cospelich

Anniversaries

Episcopal Church of the Creator

Church Office Hours:

9:00 am—2 pm, Monday—Thursday

Presiding Bishop

The Most Reverend Michael Curry

Bishop

The Very Reverend Brian Seage

Priest-In-Charge

The Reverend Robert M. Blanton

Administrator

Beth Braley

theepiscopalchurchofthecreator@gmail.com

Choir Director

Vacant

Senior Warden

Rhea Estes, 601-813-3863

Junior Warden

Vacant

Treasurer

Tommy Mills, 601-259-5333

Vestry

Ross Turner, 601-214-2484

John Lanford, 601-708-4374

Dianne Martin, 601-906-5086

Isabel Mills, 601-954-3769

Jennifer Duncan, 601-850-6353

Contacts

Church Office

Administrator—Beth Braley, 601-924-2261

Email: theepiscopalchurchofthecreator@gmail.com

Pastoral Emergencies

Rev. Robert M. Blanton, Cell: 601-291-0652

Polly Marshall, Cell: 601-953-2980

Acolytes

Mike Milone, Cell: 601-473-6305

Adult Christian Education

Rev. Robert M. Blanton, Cell: 601-291-0652

Altar Guild

Larry & Rhea Estes, Cell: 601-813-3859

Choir

Vacant

Children's Christian Education

John Lanford, Cell: 601-966-3441

Columbarium

Wendy Brantley, Cell: 601-954-3946

Flower Guild

Becky Wright, Cell: 601-940-4861

Funeral Guild

Vacant

Parish Lunches & Special Events

Andrew Wilder, 601-842-0058

Doug George, 601-502-5063

Cubmaster

Mike Milone, Cell: 601-473-6305

Wedding Coordinator

Vacant



Episcopal Church of the Creator
1445 Clinton-Raymond Rd.
Clinton, MS 39056

*We are part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion and in communion with the
Archbishop of Canterbury.*

“We are a congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi: One church in mission, inviting, transforming, and reconciling. We seek to serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being.”